

Marine Barracks 8th & I

Established in 1801, Marine Barracks Washington D.C., is the “Oldest Post of the Corps” and has been the residence of every Commandant of the Marine Corps since 1806. The selection of the site for the barracks was a matter of personal interest to President Thomas Jefferson, who rode through Washington with Lieutenant Colonel Commandant Burrows in search of a suitable location. The site now occupied was chosen due to its location near the Navy Yard and the fact that it was within easy marching distance of the Capitol. The Marine Barracks has



also been home of the United States Marine Band since 1801. Shortly after its formation, the Band was requested to play for President John Adams at the Executive Mansion. This White House engagement began a tradition that has become so established that today the names “Marine Band” and “President’s Own” are synonymous. It was at the barracks that John Philip Sousa, during the time he was the director of the Marine Band, wrote many of his immortal marches. Today’s barracks Marines perform many tasks in support of our diverse missions. These include light infantry training, ceremonies, and presidential support duty to include a company of “8th and I” Marines serves at Camp David. The barracks is also home to the Marine Corps Institute - the Corps’ distance training center, which is responsible for all nonresident military education programs.

Evening Parade

A 75-minute performance of music and precision marching, the Evening Parade features “The President’s Own” United States Marine Band, “The Commandant’s Own” United States Marine Drum and Bugle Corps, and the Marine Corps Silent Drill Platoon. The Evening Parade is held every Friday evening from 5 May 2006 through 25 August 2006. The ceremony starts at 8:45 p.m., beginning with a concert by the “President’s Own.”



How to Make Parade Reservations

Seating for the Evening Parade requires a reservation. Guests with reservations are admitted beginning at 7:00 p.m., and should arrive no later than 8 p.m. Reservations may be made in writing, by fax, or online (for groups of 6 or less) at www.mbw.usmc.mil. To assure ample time to confirm reservations by return mail, requests should be addressed to the Protocol Officer, Marine Barracks, 8th and I Streets, S.E. Washington, D.C. 20390-5000. Requests made by fax should be faxed to the Protocol Officer at (202) 433-4076. The request should include the name of the party (either group or individual), the number of guests in the party, a complete return address, and a point of contact with a telephone number. An alternate parade date should be included in the request in case the primary date requested is unavailable.

At approximately 8:10 p.m., guests without reservations who are waiting outside the main gate of the Barracks are offered unclaimed seats. Confirmations and gate assignments for reservation requests will be made by return mail. There are no public parking spaces available at the barracks. Guests may park at Maritime Plaza, where a free shuttle service is

provided to and from the Barracks. The first shuttle departs Maritime Plaza at 7 p.m., and the last shuttle departs the Barracks at 11 p.m. For additional information, you may call the parade information line: (202) 433-6060.

Sunset Parade

A one-hour performance, the Sunset Parade features the music of “The Commandant’s Own” United States Marine Drum and Bugle Corps, and a precision drill exhibition by the Marine Corps Silent Drill Platoon. The Sunset Parade is conducted every Tuesday evening from 6 June 2006 through 15 August 2006, beginning at 7 p.m. The Sunset Parade, held under the back-drop of the Marine Corps War Memorial, is open to the public at no charge. Reservations are not necessary. Spacious lawns provide ample room for guests to bring lawn chairs and blankets for informal viewing. There are no public parking spaces available at the memorial grounds on parade evenings. Guests may park at the Arlington National Cemetery Visitors’ Center for a minimal fee. A free shuttle service is provided from the Visitors’ Center from 5 to 7 p.m., before the parade and from 8 to 9 p.m. following the parade.